

Calais Roads Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, Dec 17, 2014

at the Calais Town Office

(approved Jan 21, 2015)

Committee members present clock wise from the chair: Stephanie Kaplan (Chair), Greg Pelchuck, Gary Schultz, Rick Kehne (Vice-Chair), and Peter Harvey (Secretary)

Committee members absent: Doug Lilley, Barbara Weedon

Selectboard representative: Rose Pelchuck

Guests: none

(7:08 pm) Stephanie called this meeting to order

Public Comments: none

Approve minutes of Nov 19th meeting

- Approved 5-0 as corrected - Greg (seconded by Rick)

(7:19 to 8:07)

Review the Selectboard Charge to the Calais Roads Advisory Committee

- Stephanie reported on the Dec 8th Selectboard meeting that she and Peter attended
 - The Selectboard wants the Roads Committee to:
 - meet with the Selectboard once a month
 - in advance of that meeting, send our recommendations to the Selectboard so that they can read them ahead of that meeting
 - The Selectboard will indicate what the Committee can deal directly with Highway Operations Manager Toby Talbot on and what the Selectboard wants to be involved with.
 - write a new charge and email it to the Selectboard before next meeting with them

Committee Charge: the Committee will monitor implementation of the Calais Road and Bridge Standards and recommend work to bring the roads into compliance with them as needed ~~consider and~~ The Committee will report out their findings and recommendations to the Selectboard regarding the following topics of importance:

- 1) Scenic roads and maintaining the scenic character of Calais Roads
- 2) Scenic shade trees and approaches for their protection and reestablishment
- 3) When and under what circumstances should shade trees be removed
- 4) Evaluate road maintenance standards to be applied on Calais Roads, Evaluate how road maintenance and construction is complying with the Calais Road and Bridge Standards and make sure it is in compliance with sensitivity being given to roads of a scenic or rural character;

- 5) Continue evaluation and development of a categorization system for Calais roads based upon criteria to include level of use, speed of travel, road width, scenic/historic character, safety, impact to residents, environmental protection, sprawl, traffic calming, and ease/cost of maintenance;
- ~~6) Evaluate possible variations between roads and applicable maintenance standards to the road category (refer to 4)~~
- 7) Evaluate roads that require upgrades to determine if they are in compliance with the Calais Road and Bridge Standards and if not what needs to be done to bring them into compliance.
- 8) ~~Evaluate roads that may be downgraded for possible re-classification.~~
- 9) Evaluate road conditions and maintenance with respect to non-motorized traffic (e.g. bicycle, pedestrian, animal powered transport).
- 10) Other matters that may come to the attention of the committee through public input or from the Selectboard

Other related comments:

- Greg said the Road Crew should get our Road Crew back into basic every day maintenance [grade roads, trim trees, simple culverts, etc] and out of Heavy Construction [major road rebuilding and box culvert construction (over a dollar amount?) that should be contracted out to road construction companies]. We should better define what the Road Crew should do and what should be jobbed out... We should not be in the construction business.
- Rick – We’ve established these guidelines. We’ll be tweaking them over time. Now we are in the implementation part: monitoring, see what is working, see what isn’t working, are things being done the way they are supposed to be done?
- Gary – Set priorities for the Road Crew.
- What is our part in keeping track of the equipment maintenance?
- What is our part in recording/tracking work/materials done/used on the roads?
- Rick told the Committee that there is a program, MSBS, that tracks maintenance costs, labor, etc. If we want to do that we have to come up with something that is much easier to use.
- Stephanie - We should have Toby come here and ask him for a construction schedule for next year.
- Recommend to the Selectboard that they use the road crew for maintenance, and not heavy construction. The Selectboard should decide where to draw the line between every day maintenance and heavy construction that a construction company can do more efficiently [quicker and for less money].
- Greg said that crushed granite staymat from Manosh or Bickford’s is best for roads. Trucking is more expensive than the cost of the material. Recommend (or be advised) to Selectboard.
- Stephanie will write a report for the Town Report.
- The traffic studies will show the speeds at which traffic is currently driving at specific points on our roads and which roads have the most traffic on them. Gary pointed out that if the traffic studies show that people are not speeding, the roads are engineered well enough to move on to our concerns [erosion, maintenance, scenic beauty].

Review Lightening Ridge Rd recommendations to the Selectboard

- Postponed to next meeting

Discuss which roads to study next

- West County Rd

- Rick did a quick analysis of the speeds recorded on West County Rd.

Other business:

- none

Stephanie is going to:

- ask Barbara to create an Action List – keep track of what people were supposed to do over the last few months.
- write a report for the Town Report.

January meeting agenda:

- Public Comments
- Approve minutes
- Review and vote to approve Lightening Ridge recommendations
- **Stephanie** will find out when the Selectboard will meet with us
- **Stephanie** is going to ask Barbara to review the minutes of the past few months and make a list of what people are supposed to do.
- **Rick** is going to analyze traffic data (numbers & speed)
- **Rick** is going to finish reviewing the Lightening Ridge Recommendations that Peter emailed him
- **Rick** is going to meet with Toby about plowing corner radiuses
- **Rick** will ask Toby what he is keeping records of
- **Greg** will email the March 12, 2012 Road Committee Charge to the members before the next meeting.
- **Greg** will report on report of comparative hauling costs from local gravel pits for 10 wheeler & 6 wheeler loads [Manosh (4 quarries), Bidford, Pick]

Adjourned – 8:45 PM

The next regular meeting of the Calais Roads Advisory Committee is Wednesday, Jan 21, 2015 7:00 pm at the Calais Town Office